

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process of making vehicle gauge faces, said process including the steps of:
5 phototooling a predetermined sized and shaped vehicle gauge face;
preparing a predetermined size and shape metal;
coating said metal using a phototool of said vehicle gauge face;
developing said coating on a surface of said metal vehicle gauge face;
etching said metal vehicle gauge face on a first and second surface; and
10 stripping said etched metal vehicle gauge face.
2. The process of claim 1 further including the steps of preparing initial size and shape for said vehicle gauge face to digital data in a predetermined file format.
- 15 3. The process of claim 1 further including the steps of shearing said metal stock to said predetermined size and shape.
4. The process of claim 1 further including the steps of exposing said coating to a
UV light.
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5. The process of claim 1 further including the steps of inspecting said metal vehicle gauge face to predetermined specifications.
6. The process of claim 2 wherein said step of phototooling includes plotting said
25 digital data file.

7. The process of claim 1 wherein said step of preparing includes chemically and mechanically cleaning said metal.

5 8. The process of claim 1 wherein said step of coating places a laminate on said metal with a photo resist on both sides of said metal.

9. The process of claim 8 wherein said step of developing , develops said photoresist to remove an unexposed area from said metal.

10 10. The process of claim 9 wherein said step of etching removes an exposed area from said metal.

11. The process of claim 8 wherein said step of stripping dissolves said photo resist
15 by a stripping solution leaving said metal vehicle gauge face characters, lines, and lettering intact.

12. A process of machining vehicle gauge faces from a metal material, said process including the steps of:

20 preparing design data of the vehicle gauge face into a digital data of a predetermined file format;

photo plotting said digital data with a laser onto film to produce a phototool;

coating a predetermined sized metal vehicle gauge face with a photo resist on both sides of said metal vehicle gauge face;

exposing said photo resist to an UV light through said phototool;

developing said photo resist to remove an unexposed area of said photoresist from
5 said metal vehicle gauge face;

etching said metal vehicle gauge face to remove an exposed area of said photo resist;

stripping said photo resist with a stripping solution from said metal vehicle gauge face; and

10 inspecting completed metal vehicle gauge face for compliance with predetermined specifications.

13. The process of claim 12 further including the steps of:

shearing said metal vehicle gauge face from a metal stock;

15 preparing said metal vehicle gauge face by chemically and mechanically cleaning said metal.

14. The process of claim 12 wherein said steps of developing uses a potassium carbonate substance to develop said photo resist.

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15. The process of claim 12 wherein said steps of etching uses a 40° Be-Ferric Chloride as said etchant.

16. The process of claim 12 wherein said steps of stripping uses a Sodium Hydroxide compound as said stripper.

17. The process of claim 15 wherein said etchant is sprayed on both sides of said
5 metal vehicle gauge face.

18. The process of claim 12 wherein said exposing will polymerize said photo resist.

19. The product produced by the process of claim 1.

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20. The product produced by the process of claim 12.